

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) A medical retrieval instrument comprising:

a plurality of filaments for holding an object;

a hollow section, through which a first end of each of the plurality of filaments passes, the hollow section including a fixing section for fixing a second end of each of the plurality of filaments;

wherein the hollow section comprises a first member through which one end of each of the plurality filaments passes, the hollow section comprises a second member engaged with the first member, the fixing section includes a plurality of grooves formed on an engagement surface at which the first member and the second member engage, and an elongated direction of the plurality of grooves is slanted with respect to an extending direction of the first member or an elongated direction of the second member.

23-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A medical retrieval instrument comprising:

at least one filament provided in a distal end portion of the instrument for holding an object; and

a fixing member provided in the distal end portion of the instrument for at least fixing one end of the at least one filament to the instrument, the fixing member having an accommodation part having a predetermined position and direction for accommodating and fixing the one end of the at least one filament in a the predetermined position and direction regulated by the accommodation part.

28. (Previously Presented) The medical retrieval instrument according to claim 27, wherein the accommodation part is a groove formed on a component of the instrument.

29. (Previously Presented) The medical retrieval instrument according to claim 27, wherein the accommodation part is a hole formed on a component of the instrument.

30. (Previously Presented) The medical retrieval instrument according to claim 27, wherein adhesive is applied in the accommodation part for fixing the filament to the instrument.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~The medical retrieval instrument according to claim 27,~~ A medical retrieval instrument comprising:

at least one filament provided in a distal end portion of the instrument for holding an object; and

a fixing member provided in the distal end portion of the instrument for at least fixing one end of the at least one filament to the instrument, the fixing member having an accommodation part for accommodating and fixing the one end of the at least one filament in a predetermined position and direction,

wherein the accommodation part is slanted in respect to the longitudinal direction of the instrument.

32. (Previously Presented) The medical retrieval instrument according to claim 27, further comprising:

an operation wire for operating the filament through forward and backward movements; and

a sheath in which the operation wire is provided;

wherein the fixing member is provided in the distal end portion of the sheath.

33. (Currently Amended) A medical retrieval instrument comprising:

a sheath;

a plurality of filaments provided on a distal end portion of the sheath for holding an object;

a fixing member provided on the distal end portion of the sheath for fixing one end of each of the plurality of filaments, the fixing member having a groove corresponding to each of the plurality of filaments on a surface thereof for accommodating and fixing the one end of each of the plurality of filaments so that each of the plurality of filaments extends out from the corresponding groove in a direction regulated by the groove; and

an operation wire provided inside of the sheath for operating the plurality of filaments through forward and backward movements.

34. (Currently Amended) A medical retrieval instrument comprising:

a sheath;

a plurality of filaments provided on a distal end portion of the sheath for holding an object; and

an operation wire provided inside of the sheath for operating the plurality of filaments through forward and backward movements;

wherein the sheath has a groove in the distal end portion thereof corresponding to each of the plurality of filaments for accommodating and fixing one end of each of the plurality of filaments so that each of the plurality of filaments extends out from the corresponding groove in a direction regulated by the groove.

35. (Currently Amended) A medical retrieval instrument comprising:

a sheath;

a plurality of filaments provided on a distal end portion of the sheath for holding an object; and

an operation wire provided inside of the sheath for operating the plurality of filaments through forward and backward movements;

wherein the sheath has a hole in the forefront surface thereof corresponding to each of the plurality of filaments for accommodating and fixing one end of each of the plurality of filaments so that each of the plurality of filaments extends out from the corresponding hole in a direction regulated by the hole.